Scarcity of Text-Books

4372. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of text-books in some scheduled areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to solve the problem of shortage of text-books in those areas, particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) It is the responsibilities of the State Governments and the State School Boards to publish and distribute textbooks in their areas including in the scheduled areas.

(b) The information has been called for from the Government of Orissa and would be laid on the table of the House, on its receipt from the State Government.

Library Science Education

†4373. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any scheme for development of library science education in the country, in view of its being a developing country;

(b) whether any guideline has been issued to members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha to allocate funds out of the MPLAD Scheme for construction/ operation of libraries in their respective Parliamentary Constituencies/States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether Government propose to formulate any rules/directives in this regard; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, the Commission provides development grant to Universities for development of Library Science Education.

(b) to (e) Under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, works as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

recommended by the Members of Parliament, can be taken up for the creation of durable assets based on locally felt needs. That Ministry has issued detailed guidelines on the MPLADS. The illustrative list of works that can be taken up under the MPLADS includes construction of only buildings of public libraries and reading rooms. However, books, furniture and fixtures, etc., are not allowed to be purchased for the public libraries and reading rooms as there is specific restriction on purchase of inventory of stock of any type.

Varying leave periods in schools

4374. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dates and periods of leave declared by the authorities of Central Schools, State Government Schools and Government aided schools are always different, even in one particular zone;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Human Resource Development would intervene and issue necessary instructions for bringing uniformity for declaration of dates and periods of leave and also for admission in all the schools, at least in one particular zone;

(d) if so, by when this instruction would be issued; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) 'Education' is on the concurrent list and school education is primarily the concern of the State/UT Governments. The matter regarding declaration of dates and periods of leave are within the jurisdiction of the State/UT Governments. However, in case of schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education(CBSE), the Board has prescribed in its Affiliation Bye-Laws that the working days and holidays in the schools will be as per State Government Schools or Kendriya Vidyalayas. However, in Kendriya Vidyalayas, leave periods are declared uniformly throughout the country.

Plight of female children

4375. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY:

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: